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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Week Ending June 4, 2006

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This report can be found on the Internet at

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Crop_Progress_and_Condition/index.asp

Fair Week for Field Work: The rain in the past several weeks has made it challenging for farmers to finish planting major crops. However, favorable conditions and moisture have promoted rapid growth. The beginning of the week showed lots of warmth and sunshine. Later in the week, heavy rain and cooler temperatures caused some farmers to replant several crops. Silos were being filled with small grains and haylage. Strawberries are currently being picked while other fruits are showing good potential. Moisture levels are high right now; some sunshine would be nice. Overall, 4 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included hauling and spreading manure and lime, spraying pesticides and herbicides, repairing equipment, transplanting tobacco, cutting hay, and planting corn and soybeans.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending June 4, 2006

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	2	84	14

Crops: Planting for the corn crop is at 94 percent completion, 1 percent behind last year's pace, but still remains ahead of the 5-year average. The corn is now rapidly emerging at 80 percent, well ahead of last year and the 5-year average. The corn conditions have been reported as 68 percent in good or excellent condition with a corn height of 8 inches. Soybean planting is at 77 percent complete, 8 percent behind last year at this time. Emergence for the soybean crop is at 40 percent, which trails last year's figure and the 5-year average. Ninety-six percent of the winter wheat crop is now heading, far above average. The winter wheat crop has recently reached the stage of turning yellow at 5 percent. The wheat crop condition, which is doing well, was reported as 76 percent good or better. Eight percent of the oat crop is headed, slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Fifty-three percent of the oat crop is in either good or excellent condition. In comparison with last year, cutting for alfalfa is 16 percent ahead at 69 percent complete. The timothy clover cutting for hay is 10 percent complete, just 1 percent ahead of the 5-year average. The quality of hay made at this point in time was reported as 2 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 28 percent excellent.

All fruits for Pennsylvania are now considered to be in full bloom. Conditions for peaches did show a decline over the past week. Seventy-five percent of the peaches and 91 percent of the apples were reported as good or excellent.

Livestock: After a dry start at the beginning of the month, pastures are now recovering after the rains. With the recent rain that Pennsylvania has received, pastures are looking greener. Livestock seem to be doing fine for the most part. This week's pasture conditions are the following:

1 percent very poor, 12 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 9 percent excellent.

U.S. as of May 31, 2006: Weekly temperatures generally ranged from 6 degrees F or more below normal in parts of the Northeastern States. Farther east, chilly weather--accompanied by showers and thunderstorms--lingered for much of the week across the eastern Corn Belt, maintaining a sluggish pace of crop development and soybean planting.

During the first half of the week, hot weather across the western half of the Nation contrasted with chilly conditions in the Great Lakes and Northeastern States. Farther east, scattered frost damaged some tender vegetation, such as emerged corn, in the Great Lakes region.

Toward week's end, locally heavy thunderstorms briefly shifted into the east, but warm weather favored emergence and growth of summer crops. In the Corn Belt, fieldwork was not seriously delayed by moderate rainfall. With corn planting nearly complete across most areas, soybean planting progressed rapidly.

Corn: Ninety-seven percent of the acreage had been seeded, 1 percentage point behind last year but 4 points ahead of the 5-year average. Progress was at or ahead of normal elsewhere. Emergence advanced to 85 percent, compared with 83 percent last year and 77 percent for the normal. Progress was at or ahead of normal in all states, except Indiana and Kansas. Crop condition improved in most areas.

Soybeans: Growers had planted 79 percent of their acreage, the same as last year but 11 points ahead of normal. Planting progressed rapidly in most areas as many growers completed their corn planting. Emergence, at 42 percent, was 5 points behind last year but 3 points ahead of normal. The crop emerged rapidly in most areas under warm conditions. Emergence was ahead of normal in the Eastern States.

Winter Wheat: Heading advanced to 79 percent, compared with 78 percent last year and 77 percent for the 5-year average. However, progress was at or ahead of normal in most states, including Pennsylvania. Crop condition continued to decline, with hot, dry weather.

Small Grains: Barley seeding was 97 percent complete, 2 points ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of normal, with progress at or ahead of normal in all states. Emergence, at 80 percent, was 2 points behind last year but 5 points ahead of normal.

Oat emergence advanced to 95 percent, compared with 94 percent last year and 89 percent for the 5-year average. Progress was at or ahead of normal in all states. Twenty-five percent of the acreage was at or beyond the heading stage, 1 point ahead of last year and the normal. Heading had not yet begun in the northernmost growing areas.

Weather Data For Week Ending June 4, 2006

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - June 4, 2006					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	88	54	71	9	0.20	3	6.99	-0.21	30	451	127	972
Franklin	93	51	71	9	1.65	4	8.98	1.09	31	421	104	983
Meadville	88	52	70	11	1.34	4	7.63	-0.05	30	426	150	961
Mercer	90	49	69	8	1.63	4	10.37	2.64	32	393	67	943
Springboro	89	51	70	8	0.27	4	10.25	3.43	32	364	26	863
Warren	93	53	70	9	1.07	4	8.31	0.17	31	373	70	900
North Central												
Bradford Region	88	50	66	10	1.90	4	7.92	-0.13	32	278	82	749
Emporium	94	52	71	13	2.46	5	8.58	0.16	32	358	131	922
Kane	91	45	66	10	1.08	4	7.23	-1.13	32	221	30	685
Laporte	87	53	68	7	2.42	5	8.38	0.48	29	306	-17	813
Lock Haven	95	54	72	9	2.99	5	7.71	0.29	27	451	90	1,046
Port Allegany	90	52	68	10	1.78	4	7.09	-0.48	26	292	51	784
Renovo	96	54	71	9	3.17	5	8.25	0.83	29	437	76	1,025
Ridgway	91	49	68	10	1.93	5	8.51	0.09	32	294	67	813
Stevenson Dam	95	52	71	12	1.52	3	6.19	-2.23	26	401	174	983
Towanda	94	51	71	9	1.71	5	6.18	-0.67	26	389	56	938
Wellsboro	89	53	69	12	2.19	5	7.32	1.12	27	285	84	775
Williamsport	93	54	72	8	1.65	4	6.75	-0.90	26	514	80	1,109
Northeast												
Hawley	88	50	69	10	3.50	4	12.36	4.44	24	314	68	826
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	93	54	71	8	0.44	4	5.73	-1.41	23	492	104	1,065
Susquehanna	90	53	69	11	1.58	6	8.02	-0.16	31	336	110	863
West Central												
Butler	91	50	70	8	1.00	3	9.45	1.61	30	403	54	976
New Castle	93	51	71	9	1.07	4	9.33	2.28	33	502	157	1,086
Slippery Rock	92	51	70	10	1.48	4	10.50	3.07	34	435	126	1,008
Central												
Altoona/Blair	91	52	71	8	1.21	4	4.91	-2.43	24	474	69	1,063
DuBois	91	48	68	7	1.74	4	8.44	0.44	33	377	59	919
Lewistown	94	53	72	8	1.94	2	7.65	0.04	27	492	27	1,095
Middletown	93	57	75	9	0.70	3	5.81	-2.25	22	660	126	1,280
Prince Gallitzi	92	46	69	9	3.05	4	9.15	-0.38	30	312	30	850
Selinsgrove	92	54	71	8	2.09	4	7.75	0.08	24	472	70	1,067
State College	93	51	71	8	1.39	3	5.69	-1.37	25	498	110	1,098
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	92	57	74	9	1.44	3	6.44	-1.80	26	583	118	1,187
Lehighton	90	56	73	8	1.10	4	8.49	0.30	29	485	43	1,070
Matamoras	89	53	70	7	1.33	4	8.21	-0.54	29	371	-4	916
Mt_Pocono	85	51	68	11	0.86	5	9.94	0.77	30	325	131	845
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	89	52	72	9	1.52	4	7.60	-0.35	30	576	166	1,185
Derry	91	51	71	8	1.68	3	10.23	2.45	30	431	70	1,008
Myersdale	89	46	66	4	1.21	5	8.42	-0.35	34	232	-117	740
Mount Pleasant	89	51	70	9	1.06	3	9.47	0.54	28	396	99	968
Pittsburgh Intl	91	52	71	7	1.52	4	7.60	0.38	29	558	117	1,155
Connellsville	93	55	72	7	2.76	3	11.63	3.00	35	516	54	1,112
Waynesburg	91	53	70	8	0.61	3	6.56	-1.39	28	444	59	1,034
South Central												
Biglerville	92	53	73	7	1.84	4	7.68	0.08	27	570	37	1,187
Everett	89	46	67	4	2.97	4	8.47	1.08	28	333	-52	920
Hanover	92	51	74	8	0.92	3	6.80	-0.80	29	553	20	1,164
Harrisburg_AP	93	54	74	8	1.10	3	6.85	-1.21	25	632	91	1,252
South Mountain	89	50	70	6	1.14	3	8.09	0.75	29	380	-18	957
York	93	50	74	8	0.58	3	6.21	-1.66	27	557	14	1,162
Southeast												
Green Lane	91	56	73	10	3.47	4	9.40	1.24	26	581	149	1,189
Hamburg	93	56	74	12	0.75	4	6.73	-2.67	28	607	244	1,213
West_Chester	94	49	73	7	2.79	2	8.66	-0.10	23	529	8	1,131
Lancaster	92	53	74	9	2.56	3	8.73	0.91	25	601	133	1,215
Neshaminy Falls	90	54	72	7	2.75	4	9.97	0.97	24	515	55	1,125
New Holland	92	53	74	9	1.10	3	6.46	-1.36	25	609	141	1,219
Philadelphia	93	60	76	9	3.00	3	8.88	1.03	20	788	203	1,425
Philadelphia NE	92	59	76	9	3.24	4	11.09	3.24	24	765	180	1,397
Reading	93	58	76	11	2.60	3	7.63	-1.18	24	646	202	1,257
Valley Forge Na	96	56	74	7	1.64	3	8.03	-0.35	23	593	27	1,205
Willow Grove	89	56	75	10	2.34	4	8.02	-0.98	24	656	196	1,278

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA) - Some parts of Adams County received various rainfall amounts early Wednesday morning. Amounts range from 1" in York Springs area but Heidlersburg area had 2 1/4". Some parts of the county received a couple of drops. Also Thursday evening parts of the county had thunderstorms but some areas had 1/4 to 1/2 inch and others had none. Rains seem very spotty and some of the same areas have not gotten any of these rains. Areas that received rainfall have perked the crops up but are still dry with more than 4" rainfall deficit.

The temperatures this week were high 80's to 90 degrees with high humidity. Nighttime temps didn't drop below 70's most evenings.

Wheat and barley continue to mature. Barley crop is starting to turn color with some lodging where heavy rainfall was received early Wednesday morning. Corn and soybeans are still being planted in the county. Some hay is being double-cropped into corn and soybeans. Hay and haylage continue to be harvested.

Strawberries are being picked in the county. Other fruits are doing ok for now. Some sprays are being applied for thinning fruit crops and temperatures can cause various results.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Showers this week will help the corn and beans. Pasture is now looking better and hay is continuing to grow for second cutting.

BERKS COUNTY, Theresa Tracey (FSA) - Much needed rain fell last week somewhat relieving the dry conditions that persisted early on. However some of the heavy rains and high winds flattened some crops in parts of the county. Corn crop looks good; pastures were dry but rebounding after the rains.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - It's a challenge getting those last fields planted. Showers have been spotty throughout the county this week. Some areas receive heavy downpours while others get little; then the next day it reverses. Many of the farmers were putting in haylage the beginning of the week and planting corn and soybeans.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Rain and sunshine has crops looking much better. Top soil moisture much improved during the past week. We had 2" of rainfall in our gauge. Haymaking had good progress between showers.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice) - In portions of my area had torrential downpours and hail destroying some acreage of corn. Unbelievable damage.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum - Hot weather increased crop growth and development this past week.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Rain off and on this week slowed planting and silo filling. Farmers would like to get the last of the corn and beans in this week so they can move onto dry haymaking. Hopefully the weather will co-operate.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - Rain at beginning and at the end of week limited hay harvest but provided needed moisture for corn, beans and small grains. Instances of cereal leaf beetle appearing in wide areas of oat stands. Established corn and soybeans fields responded to heat at early part of week. In general good stands of crops set the stage for a good crop. Hay harvest of many grass fields is delayed.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - The weather needs to warm up and stop raining. Many farmers are filling silo or bunkers. Corn was set back from the frost. Some farmers are replanting corn. The wet weather is causing spring planted crops to turn yellow. Making of dry hay has been very difficult.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT) - Continued showers have prevented some vegetable planting. Crops responded well to the warm weather early last week.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeff Graybill (EXT) - Direct cut barley is coming off. Some areas had heavy rain on Friday with significant erosion and up to 6 inches of accumulation reported.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr (NRCS) - If the weather cooperates we expect small grain harvest to begin. Last week farmers were putting small grain in the silo, making hay, transplanting tobacco, and planting soybeans and corn. Rains were severe in some areas and minimal in other areas.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr (FSA) - Storms during the week of 5/28 brought some much needed rainfall to most of Schuylkill County. Approximately 5000 acres of cropland were hit with significant hail damage. Early planted corn is being replanted on some farms while the later planted acres are expected to recover.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Light rain at the beginning of the week and heavy rains on Thursday night into Friday, limited the field work. The rain and very warm temperatures gave the corn a boost in growth and a change in color. Most of the corn is beginning to look very good; however, there are some fields with weed problems. The soybeans are beginning to emerge and the stand quality is too early to evaluate. The barley has turned color and is within several weeks of being ready for harvest the winter wheat has headed and has good head size. Corn and soybean planting, haymaking and spraying herbicides were the main activities for the week.

TIOGA COUNTY, J. Craig Williams (EXT) - Rain Rain Rain

UNION COUNTY, James Brubaker - Crops look good; corn is off to a very good start and is growing rapidly with the recent warm weather and now plenty of moisture. Beans have had a long time coming up. The population is off somewhat, but I believe adequate for yield but possibly will allow a for more weed pressure as canopy time will be delayed. We have had over 2.5" of rain in the past week.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Favorable temperatures and moisture conditions are promoting rapid crop growth. Some corn was set back by last week's frost, but most seems to be recovering. A few producers are reporting having to replant because of the frost damage.

Across the county, May has been a month of extremes. The first third of the month was dry and cool with almost perfect planting conditions. The middle third was cold and wet with almost no progress made in the field. Finally we ended the month with frost and 90 degree temperatures in less than a week's time. Overall the crops look good.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending June 4, 2006

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, planted	94	96	87
Corn, emerged	80	73	70
Corn average height, inches	8	0	0
Barley, turning yellow	58	29	52
Wheat, heading or headed	96	88	88
Wheat, turning yellow	5	0	5
Oats, heading or headed	8	3	5
Soybeans, planted	77	85	67
Soybeans, emerged	40	49	41
Tobacco, transplanted	81	43	44
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	69	53	46
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	21	22	20

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending June 4, 2006

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	2	30	53	15
Wheat	0	3	21	61	15
Oats	0	0	49	47	4
Soybeans	0	1	26	65	8
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	2	20	54	24
Timothy clover stand	1	3	26	60	10
Quality of hay made	0	2	20	50	28
Pasture	1	12	30	48	9
Peaches	0	2	23	40	35
Apples	1	1	7	46	45

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